

DISTRICT GOVERNMENT.

Ex-Mayor Berret Expresses Himself Emphatically in Favor of Popular Suffrage.

How He Would Change the Present State of Things—An Interesting Interview.

A REPUBLICAN reporter called yesterday afternoon on Col. Jas. G. Berret to obtain his views considering a change of government for the District of Columbia. As is well known, Col. Berret was mayor of Washington when Lincoln was inaugurated in 1861, and has been for more than thirty years one of the most public spirited citizens of the district. The gentleman expressed his views without the least hesitancy, and unequivocally in favor of the restoration of suffrage. "There is a great principle involved in this matter," said he, "which no American can afford to ignore. It is the principle upon which the government is founded—that public officers should be directly responsible to the people, and to make them thus responsible, they should be elected by popular vote. To hold it to be a most dangerous precedent to deprive any part of this country of the right of suffrage. If the wrong is allowed to continue here in Washington it may expand and grow, and in time take root in contiguous states. I hold that it is more dangerous in this world more valuable than money, and one of these is an untrammelled elective franchise. It was never intended by those who obtained the decision of the court that Virginia and Maryland should be robbed of a part of their domain to be robbed of so dear a right? The fact that from the very beginning the district had a local government shows that the original purpose was, and its continuance was, to hold it as a separate entity, and that a dispute at that point was an afterthought. It is true that the constitution reserves to congress the right to legislate for the district, but it was not until recent years that congress has taken it upon itself to legislate away the voting privilege."

When asked as to whether he thought municipal government had been a success in Washington during the many years that it was in existence, Col. Berret replied that he doubted it; that the local government of Washington compared unfavorably with that of any city in the states. There were abuses from time to time but they were always corrected. The people can always be trusted to reform wrongs, and in Baltimore there had been a bad government during the Know-nothing reign, but the people called for a new deal, and an honest and orderly government followed. Now it would have been a curious coincidence if the people of Baltimore, who can govern themselves, therefore the government will take away your right to vote. Yet this is exactly what was done with Washington. If the people had the right to elect their own government, they would have been able to elect a better government in time. Now we are governed by strangers, who are not responsible to the people. Their appointment is necessarily due to the favor in which they are held at the white house, and it is the President who appoints them, and not the people. The commissioners we have are very clever gentlemen, but it is impossible for them to properly appreciate the wants of the public they are supposed to serve. They have been here for a long time, and they are practically strangers. I doubt if Commissioners West and Edmunds are personally known to a hundred men in the district, and yet the commissioners are to us a supreme government, to whom we must look for whatever official good we get. I hold that it was never intended by the framers of the constitution that any part of the American people should be governed by officers not of their own choosing. Therefore in foisting upon this district strange officers who are not responsible to the people, the spirit of the constitution is violated, and one of the most valued rights of the American is trampled under foot."

On being asked what plan he would suggest, Col. Berret said that he was a matter of course, that should be settled after due deliberation and discussion by representative citizens. The main point was to get back the inherent rights of which the people had been robbed. "The district," said he, "should have an executive officer, to be called a governor or some other name. I think he should be elected, but even if he should be appointed by the President it would be well enough. This executive officer should represent both the people and the government. He should be a bond should be of the most responsible sort. Undoubtedly he should be chosen from the district. Then there should be a legislative body—say the old twenty-one districts, from whom the people would be elected, and eleven councilmen elected by the district at large. These eleven men and councilmen would constitute the legislature of the district, and all general ordinances passed by the legislature would be approved by the governor. All financial bills should be approved by both the governor and the president, for as long as the government pay its proportion of the municipal expenses it should of course have a co-ordinate power in all financial matters."

On this point Col. Berret said the only good accomplished the change in 1875 was the assumption on the part of the national government of one-half the public expenses of the district. It should be, and should never be changed, said he, "the people of the country had approved the action of their congressmen in assenting to such an arrangement, and the past development of the district was due to the wise measures, and its future would be due to the wisdom of Washington. Had been laid out on an elaborate and artistic plan, making the construction and keeping of its broad avenues and its numerous parks a feature of extraordinary expense, and as the city could not pay for them, the national government had given it the best streets of any city in America, if not in the world, while its sewer and water systems were rapidly approaching perfection. No person who has the good of Washington at heart should seek to charter this feature of the present government. With this aid the local tax could always be kept where it is now—at a \$1.50 on the \$100. The restoration of local government would not, however, interfere with the national financial system. With such an executive officer as I have described, and the proviso that no financial ordinances were to become laws until signed by him and approved by the President, would afford ample protection to the national treasury."

Col. Berret spoke with much enthusiasm on the subject and has manifestly given much thought to it. He had no fear of that hughon old policy, "the turn of which so many people dread." The important point is that the people, the taxpayers, and the young men should vote and govern themselves. If one local government was laid the people would vote it out at the next election. That was the purpose of the voters might purify the places where official corruption exists by the quick process of the ballot-box. There should certainly be some organized action on the part of the intelligent and taxpaying people looking to a recovery of local self government."

Found Sick in the Street.

A man named Joseph Flight, who had just arrived here from Norfolk, was found lying in the street sick by Officer Caswell, about 7 o'clock yesterday evening. He stated that he was 25 years old and only a short while from England. He was sent to the almshouse hospital.

The Marguerite Dramatic Club.

McCauley's hall was crowded last night by a large audience of ladies and gentlemen to witness a performance by the Marguerite Dramatic and Musical combination. The most noticeable features of the entertainment were the singing of La Petite Louise Mar-

guerite, a little girl of 10 years, who will become quite an artist if properly trained, the singing of Miss Renia Leona, and the excellent acting of Miss Angela Mabel. The music was well rendered.

THE COURTS.

What Business was Transacted by the Various Legal Tribunals Yesterday.

AN INJUNCTION ASKED FOR. John Stenzel and Mary Stenzel yesterday, by C. A. Elliott, filed a bill against Sarah Otterback, the executrix of Philip Otterback, and William Helmick for an injunction. The bill recites that in July, 1883, the complainants were sued by Mrs. Otterback, before Justice Helmick, for the possession of a house and fifteen acres of ground in Union view, and a judgment was given against them July 14; that they appealed, and on inquiring how long they had to perfect their bond they were told that, but on the twenty-seventh, when they proposed to give it, they were informed that he doubted the correctness of his former ruling, but postponed his decision until July 29, when he declined to assent to their bill. The plaintiffs set forth that they use the premises as a market garden, and have now a large crop of vegetables of \$1,000 or more value growing, and that if they are dispossessed they will suffer much loss. Judge James granted a temporary restraining order returnable July 29.

SUIT TO SETTLE AN ESTATE. Augustus McBlair and eighteen others, heirs of John Gadsby, yesterday entered suit against Thomas E. Waggaman, as trustee, and fourteen others, as the heirs of Thomas McBlair, to settle his estate. The bill sets forth that John Gadsby died in 1841, being at the time of his demise possessed of considerable property in this city. McBlair was one of the executors of his will, and was the last executor to die. The provisions of the will never carried out, and the complainants have entered suit, two for the recovery of trust and distribution of property, but the latter was not done. They now ask the court to settle the matter.

OTHER BUSINESS TRANSACTED. The last will of the late Ida K. Davis was filed yesterday. She bequeathed to Nellie M. Gardner of Syracuse, N. Y., and Augustus McBlair, her niece, a piece of property on Tennessee street, Syracuse, to be equally divided. Her books are left to Philip C. Drenforth, of Chicago, and all personal effects to Augustus McBlair and Augustus Gardner. Robert Drenforth is appointed sole executor.

The last will of John B. Rath was also filed. His property is left to his wife and children. His wife, Mrs. J. B. Rath, and Francis Booth are named as executors.

Mr. William P. Copeland, by his attorney, Robert Christy, yesterday entered suit against Commissioner J. R. West to recover \$1,000. The declaration sets forth that on Dec. 1, 1882, James M. Copeland, a draft on Mr. West for \$1,000 in favor of Mr. Copeland. The bill of exchange was accepted, and Mr. West promised to pay the same in sixty days, which he failed to do, and the draft remains unpaid.

The argument in the case of Bamberger vs. the Baltimore and Potomac railroad for an injunction before Judge James in the equity court was concluded yesterday, and the case submitted.

THE SECOND. Equity Court—Judge James—Bamberger vs. Baltimore and Potomac railroad; hearing resumed and submitted. Judge James, in his order of the 26th, directed that the case be continued to the 29th, and that the parties be heard on the merits of the case.

Condition of the Potomac river water, Thursday, July 26—At Great Falls, 4; at receiving reservoir, north connection, 18; south connection, 27; at distributing reservoir, 26.

One thousand one hundred bushels of wheat were sold yesterday at \$1.17 per bushel. Col. James A. Magnard, a well-known citizen of this place, and formerly treasurer of the old board of public works, had a severe apoplectic stroke on Wednesday night, and is in quite a precarious condition, although his physicians thought him somewhat easier last night.

Yesterday afternoon a team, of a horse and a mule, while towing the canal boat, Belle Humboldt, over the Alexandria canal aqueduct, broke through the rotten flooring of the tow path, and were only rescued with the greatest difficulty, but fortunately without any serious injury.

At the seventy-eighth meeting of the Eleventh Building association at Goldard's hall last night thirteen shares were retired at maximum rate of \$97.00 per share.

THE FUNERAL OF MRS. ELIZABETH WILSON took place from her late residence, 912 Tenth street southeast, yesterday afternoon at 5 o'clock. Rev. Dr. Francis, of the Fourth street M. E. church, officiated. The remains were interred at Congressional cemetery. The following gentlemen acted as pallbearers: Messrs. William F. Dove, William D. Hineine, David Berkley, Charles Bradford, R. W. Dunn, and George R. Cook. A large number of friends and acquaintances were present.

The Twelfth Street M. E. church gave a very enjoyable picnic to Carlin's Springs yesterday, which was well attended.

Dureka Council, Sons of Jonadab, held a meeting at the Washington hall last night, and at Washington hall last night, and at the order programme was exceptionally good.

The first telephone message from the Capitol hill telephone station to Baltimore was sent yesterday.

ALEXANDRIA AFFAIRS. J. P. Agnew & Co. expect to have their ship ways in working order by Monday next. Several vessels that came to this place expecting to go on the way to be overhauled at Alexandria, have been delayed by the repairs.

The riggers now at work on the schooner William Hart have the four masts in place. The schooner Samuel H. Walker arrived at this port yesterday afternoon with a cargo of coal. P. A. Reed & Co. are the agents.

Dr. Smith and Jones, who were candidates before the last council meeting for the office of health officer, and who received a tie vote and in consequence of which the election was postponed, will meet at a meeting of the board, which will not be until October, next, at the request of Mayor Beckman yesterday and drew lots to see which should act as such officer until October. Dr. Jones was the winner and was appointed by the mayor.

The board of equalization for Alexandria county, at a meeting held Wednesday night, fixed the county levy at the same rate as last year, namely, 70 cents on the hundred dollars. At the grain market flour is in fair receipt, with a good demand. Wheat is strong, active, and higher; 4,500 bushels were sold and sold on change yesterday at \$1.13 and \$1.14 for good flour, \$1.10 and \$1.12 for fair, \$1.08 and \$1.09 for longberry; common, \$1.05 and \$1.06. The receipt of corn continues light; 530 bushels of white brought, at 61; 60 bushels of rye brought from 56c to 58c, and to quality. There is no change in prices, except eggs, which are dull and in full supply.

Inspector G. W. Hawthurst reports recent arrivals at the river front. Schooner Benjamin T. Dicks, S. F. Blockson master, from New York, with phosphate for W. A. Smoot & Co.; schooner W. P. Hood, Emerson master, to load coal for Providence by American Coal company; schooner American Eagle, J. F. Beauchamp master, from Baltimore, with grain for Capt. P. B. Hoo; schooner Martha N. Hall, Alexander Robbins master, from Asplawaco to J. P. Agnew & Co.; schooner Arthur W. Smith, S. R. Berry master, from Windsor, with plaster for W. A. Smoot & Co.; schooner Grace Davis, James Dyer master, from Windsor, with plank for Herbert Bryant; schooner President A. Johnson, A. K. Richardson master, to load grain for Baltimore by Capt. P. B. Hoo; schooner C. S. Baylis, Samuel Gladding master, from Windsor with plaster for Herbert Bryant; steamer Sue W. C. Grogan master, from Baltimore with phosphate for J. B. Reed & Co.; schooner E. C. Knight, J. K. Chichester master, from New York with merchandise for F. A. Reed & Co.; schooner Ann E. Valentine, Chambers master, to load coal for American coal company; schooner Norfolk, J. L. Shropshire master, from Philadelphia with merchandise for F. A. Reed & Co.; schooner Robert H. Mitchell, A. H. Reed & Co. master, to load grain for Baltimore by G. Y. Worthington.

ON THE RIVER.

Fine Prospects for the Success of the August Regatta—Boating Notes.

If imitation be the sincerest flattery, the Washington regatta committee should feel greatly complimented. Their action in fixing upon the week following the national regatta as the best time for holding the Washington regatta has been strongly vindicated by the selection of the same date by the committee at Watkins, N. Y., for a regatta there. This date was hit upon by the Watkins people with the avowed purpose of accommodating the contestants at Newark, many of whom, it is expected, will find it convenient to take in the Watkins races while en route for home. The principal attraction at Watkins, however, will be the professional racing, which will be between Hanlan, Lee, Hosmer, Courtney, and other well known sailors, and for which a considerable purse has been raised by the summer resort people who expect to benefit by the influx of visitors. The amateur races are but four in number, and consequently constitute but a small portion of the programme.

A member of the Washington regatta committee said to THE REPUBLICAN last evening that he thought the apprehension felt by some that the Watkins races might attract many clubs who might otherwise come here was unfounded. While the professional racing at Watkins would undoubtedly attract a large number of spectators, he was confident there would be little or no conflict between the two events. The Washington regatta was to be a meeting of amateur sailors, and the Watkins regatta was to be a meeting of professional sailors. The two would be those who prefer amateur to professional racing. The prizes were known to be unusually handsome and valuable, and it is believed that, to the majority of sailors, a trip to Washington would be more pleasant and convenient than one to Watkins. Besides, amateur crews and their friends will not be slow to realize that a visit to brother oarsmen in Washington is a very different thing from a trip to a summer resort, where they would be simply a part of the show, and where they would necessarily play second fiddle to professionals. Some disappointment was manifested by the mutual friends of the boats yesterday when it became generally known that the effort made by some of them to reconcile the existing disagreement relative to the regatta had failed of success. The Columbia committee at their meeting on Wednesday evening have deemed it impracticable and inexpedient to change the date, and they stand by their existing disagreement relative to the regatta. The remainder of the gold medals will arrive in a day or two, when a display of the whole will be made at Moore & Lodings.

Frederick Moore has been rowing together for the past three days, and shows marked improvement. It is believed that this crew, notwithstanding the short time available for practice, will make a good showing at Newark.

The crew of the Potomac, paid a visit of courtesy to the Columbia last evening. He was warmly welcomed by the Columbia boys, with whom Sam has always been a favorite. Afterward there was a trip out to the Potomac, and the crew of the Potomac, who had been rowing in exceedingly good form, although not at all remarkable for speed. Probably Davis will soon give them that.

One has to go away from home to get the news. An American Sports, a paper published in Chicago has a sporting correspondent in this city whose imagination runs riot. He is distinctly in error in saying that Ellis Ward pronounced the Columbia's Lynchburg crew hard to beat. Ward did not arrive here until after the Lynchburg regatta, and had nothing to do with the crew which lost on that occasion.

The Anaslotos had out a four-oared shell crew last evening under instruction from their trainer, M. Davis; they also turned out a large number of pleasure boats. The Potomac had out the eight, three fours, four Croyles, and Morgan in singles, the ten-oared barge, and nine pleasure boats. The Carroll Institute club barge carried a large number of ladies to their beautiful and romantic landing. The Columbia sent out two fours, the eight, Lake, Brewster, Johnson, and Kirby in singles, the pair-oared, the ten-oared barge, and eleven pleasure boats. Seven pleasure boats went out from Johnson & Baker's.

Ward was working his four for the Newark regatta in the pair-oared last evening, changing them all around. If they should not make a good record in their race, it will not be for want of good training.

The following prizes for the Potomac regatta on Oct. 3 next, have been secured, and some of them are being made by Galt & Brothers. Medals for the eight, senior fours, and junior fours, and weight fours, and senior and junior singles.

No matter what your ailment is, Brown's Iron Bitters will surely benefit you.

THE NEW ASSESSMENT.

The Board of Equalization Restore the K Street Houses and Others to Their Original Assessment, and Mr. Cottrell Withdraws His Resolution.

The board of equalization and appeals yesterday took up the resolution of Mr. Cottrell, the assessor of the fifth district, in reference to reducing the assessment of 255 pieces of property in that district, making an aggregate reduction of \$570,000, and had a lengthy discussion upon it. Finally upon motion of Mr. Cottrell, the action of the board by which the houses at K street, between the Bonaparte and Judge Edmunds, and Gen. Hazen, on K street, Judge Cox and Mr. A. Pollock on L street, fronting Farragut square, and of Mr. Henry Hurt, president of the Washington Building Association, on the street which will not be until October, next, at the request of Mayor Beckman yesterday and drew lots to see which should act as such officer until October. Dr. Jones was the winner and was appointed by the mayor.

Mr. Cottrell then withdrew his sweeping resolution, and the matter may be considered settled in his district. The board also restored the Linticum estate to the original assessment; ordered that the new brick wheelwright shop, &c. (undervalued), assessed at \$2,500, be added to east 45 feet of Massachusetts avenue and 4.5 on street east of lot 34, W. of square 484, and increased lot 12, reservation B, from \$1.35 to \$1.50 per square foot.

By the Longfellow Cigars. Sold by all dealers.

SHIPPING NEWS.

Arrival and Departure of Vessels at the River Front.

Arrived—Schooners Ellen M. Golden, from Norfolk; B. Bowers, Thompson, from Kennebec river.

Sailed—Schooners Hattie S. Williams, Bray, for Portsmouth; Robert H. Rathburn, Crowell, for Bristol; John Curtis, Williams, for Richmond, Va.

CANAL MATTERS. There were twenty arrivals by canal yesterday, and the following departures: Ellen Brooks, T. L. Holbrook, Rhoda Bell, G. A. Hoffman, Mississippi, R. L. Sherif, Minnie Pinkie, G. S. Reiman, unexpected, Oxford, J. H. Parrott, Whitely, for Baltimore by Capt. P. B. Hoo; schooner C. S. Baylis, Samuel Gladding master, from Windsor with plaster for Herbert Bryant; steamer Sue W. C. Grogan master, from Baltimore with phosphate for J. B. Reed & Co.; schooner E. C. Knight, J. K. Chichester master, from New York with merchandise for F. A. Reed & Co.; schooner Ann E. Valentine, Chambers master, to load coal for American coal company; schooner Norfolk, J. L. Shropshire master, from Philadelphia with merchandise for F. A. Reed & Co.; schooner Robert H. Mitchell, A. H. Reed & Co. master, to load grain for Baltimore by G. Y. Worthington.

The Orion and the Douglas Base Ball clubs did not play yesterday on account of the rain. It is stated that they will not play at all here.

The Newark, of Newark, N. J., and the Nationals will play this afternoon at Athletic park.

The game of base ball which was to have been played yesterday, between the Bolle-

makers' nine of the navy yard and the Washington Light Guard nine, was postponed until Monday on account of the rain.

Smoke the Longfellow Cigars. You'll like it.

SUMMER SAUNTERINGS.

Interesting Letter from the Shenandoah Valley—The Washingtonians Who Are There.

Special Letter. ORKNEY SPRINGS, VA., July 25.—This charming summer resort is already well filled, and there are among the guests a large number of Washingtonians, and I understand more will arrive later in the season. I have pitied those who were unable to get away from the hot and dusty city, for I have read in THE REPUBLICAN of the intense heat we have had nothing but delightful days and cool, comfortable nights.

The journey here is extremely pleasant. Leaving Washington at 8:30 a. m. via Metropolitan branch of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, the first notice to break the journey is a tuncful whistle from the engine, which tells you that you are gliding along toward your destination. When you reach the river the scene is beautiful. Trees, royally prone in foliage, lean lovingly over the waters, as if to welcome them to closer embrace. Oaks and elms are pictured more perfectly in the mirror-like surface of the river than artists' hands could ever represent.

This is a heroic road. At Harper's Ferry the southern waters of the Shenandoah burst through the rocky barrier of the Blue Ridge and gladly mingle with the waves of the blue Potomac. For blue it is, the Potomac, from Point Lookout to the springs that feed the South Branch—blue as the sea that laves the Tyrrhenian coasts or the shivering rocks of Bar Harbor. And Harper's Ferry—you cannot view it without a flood of misty suggestions overflooding you. Is there not something about John Brown? And was it not here that the gallows was made glorious as the cross?

But past the ruined arsenal, the broken bridges, the frowning heights—past all suggestions of toll and storm and battle—you glide from Harper's Ferry into the bright valley of the Shenandoah. Daughter of the Stars! was the tender fancy that passed through the Indian's mind when he named this river. From its far southern sources it sweeps up to the Potomac, and the chance is a tuncful whistle from the engine, which tells you that you are gliding along toward your destination. When you reach the river the scene is beautiful. Trees, royally prone in foliage, lean lovingly over the waters, as if to welcome them to closer embrace. Oaks and elms are pictured more perfectly in the mirror-like surface of the river than artists' hands could ever represent.

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